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## **Sen. Allen's legislation to expand snowmobile trails voted out of committee**

**LANSING** – Legislation designed to expand Michigan's snowmobile trail system was passed by the Senate committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs on Tuesday, announced state Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

"Northern Michigan is a haven to outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy winter," said Allen, sponsor of Senate Bill 1329. "Passing this legislation will provide more opportunities for snowmobile riders across the state to enjoy all the winter wonder we have to offer up north."

SB 1329 will amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow snowmobiles to be operated within the right-of-way of a public limited access highway, if the right-of-way is designated as a snowmobile trail through a joint agreement by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources. The two departments would be in charge of establishing the details of the trail to ensure that the appropriate safety issues are addressed.

"This legislation will greatly improve winter tourism in northern Michigan," Allen said. "By allowing for snowmobile traffic along limited access highways, we can now solve the problem of getting from Gaylord to Cheboygan via snowmobile."

SB 1329 was introduced by Allen after a taskforce studying how to establish a snowmobile trail between Gaylord and Cheboygan could be achieved recommended such an initiative. The legislation will now go before the full Senate for a vote.

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**Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Allen and Alan Thompson at the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee will be available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at:**

**<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm>**